UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.6/1988/2
15 October 1987

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Thirty-second session
Vienna, 14-23 March 1988
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAIROBI FORWARD-LOOKING STRATEGIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

New developments concerning the situation of women under apartheid in South Africa and Namibia and measures of assistance to women from South Africa and Namibia who have become refugees as a result of the practice of apartheid

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 1986/25 and Council decision 1987/121. The report summarizes new developments from 1 September 1985 to 30 September 1987 concerning the situation of women living under apartheid in South Africa and Namibia and reviews measures of assistance provided to South African, Namibian and refugee women.

*E/CN.6/1988/1.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The present report has been prepared in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 1986/25 entitled "Measures of assistance provided to South African, Namibian and refugee women", in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on the Status of Women at each of its sessions on new developments concerning the situation of women living under apartheid in South Africa and Namibia, and Council decision 1987/121, approved at its first regular session in May 1987, whereby the Council approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

2. This report is in accordance with the above mandate, and focuses on black women in South Africa and Namibia. While it is recognized that the apartheid régime in South Africa and Namibia affects black men and women equally, emphasis has been placed in the present report on the double burden of black women, which results from their sex and colour, to bring the attention of the international community to their unique situation.

3. The Commission on the Status of Women, at its thirty-first session, discussed a report of the Secretary-General on measures of assistance provided to women inside South Africa and Namibia and to women from South Africa and Namibia who had become refugees as the result of the practice of apartheid. The report (E/CN.6/1986/5) was prepared in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/17.

4. The present report consists of two chapters, and conclusions derived therefrom. Chapter I deals with new developments concerning the situation of women living under apartheid in South Africa and Namibia, and chapter II with measures of assistance provided to South African, Namibian and refugee women.

5. Chapter I is based mainly on information gathered from United Nations documents and chapter II on information received from 15 organizations of the United Nations system,* four non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council** and three other organizations dealing with the issue of apartheid.***

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**Bahá'í International Community, International Co-operative Alliance, Women's International Democratic Federation and World Federation of Trade Unions.

***International Defence and Aid Fund for Southern Africa, Irish Anti-Apartheid Movement and World Council of Churches.

I. NEW DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING THE SITUATION OF WOMEN LIVING UNDER APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA

A. Political aspects

6. During the period under review, 1 September 1985 to 30 September 1987, South Africa has been under a state of emergency, imposed twice by the apartheid régime, partially from 21 July 1985 to 6 March 1986 and nation-wide from 12 June 1986, which was still in effect when this report was prepared. The régime's methods of dealing with the states of emergency have led to detention without trial, imprisonment and torture, bannings, death in detention and all forms of harassment (A/41/22). 1/

7. An estimated 12,000-16,000 opponents of apartheid, including church and trade-union leaders, journalists, youth and student leaders, women and leaders of community organizations, were detained without trial and about 250 people killed during the period from 12 June to 29 August 1986. 2/

8. People, including black women, continue to be charged for offences under apartheid laws. For example, Nonzamo Winnie Mandela, a leading woman political leader in her own right, continues to have her movements restricted under banning orders or to be held in detention. 3/

9. Black women, through women's organizations, together with others, continue to play an active and often leading role in community struggles over rents, bus fares, housing and education, as well as in campaigns against the pass laws and for improving the conditions of domestic workers.

10. Namibian women also continue to suffer the consequences of the military occupation of Namibia by South African troops. They are often the victims of rape attempts and assaults of various kinds, and they suffer torture and other forms of ill-treatment. 4/ The Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on southern Africa of the Commission on Human Rights, in its report on violations of human rights in southern Africa, has pointed to the large number of cases of women in Namibia who are subjected to brutality, torture and ill-treatment, which are brought to their attention through reliable sources of information. 5/

11. Namibian women continue to be active in the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) and to represent the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) in the international arena at conferences and seminars. In addition to their participation, through the Women's Council, in the struggle waged by SWAPO, women also face a daily battle for physical survival, health and child care. 6/

B. Social and economic aspects

12. The conditions of women living under apartheid in South Africa must be seen in the context of the discriminatory laws and practices that continue to govern their daily lives.

13. Over 5 million black women live in the Bantustans. They continue to suffer in virtually every facet of their existence and are unable to escape by going to the cities. The continuation of influx control and pass laws has prevented most black women from taking up lawful residence in the cities and urban areas. 7/

14. During the period under review, there was continuing unrest over education for blacks. Boycotts and disturbances in schools and universities occurred as a result of proposals affecting the organization of education under the reformed constitution and the unequal system of education provided to blacks. These were described in a report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on southern Africa (E/CN.4/1985/8).

15. Apartheid policy and practices, imposed in education for generations in South Africa, have led to education for blacks being inferior. Although the Government allocated R 917 million for black education in 1985/86, an increase of R 200 million compared to 1984/85, the differentials between per capita spending on education for the different population groups, namely, black, Coloured, Asian and white, remained as wide as in 1983/84, as illustrated below: 8/

	Annual per capita spending (Rand)
Black	234
Coloured	569
Asian	1,088
White	1,654

16. The living conditions of black Namibians are a direct consequence of official legislation and administration policies. Housing provided by the occupation régime is exceptionally poor in standard and insufficient in quantity. 9/

17. Education in Namibia is based on the apartheid Bantu educational system. The rate of illiteracy continues to be high, particularly among women. Teachers are poorly trained or not trained at all. There are fewer schools for blacks at the secondary and post-secondary levels. 10/ In addition to segregation along racial lines, the system is also divided ethnically for "second-tier administration" purposes. Education is free and compulsory for whites between the ages of 6 and 16. For blacks, education is not free and not compulsory and the entry age is 7 years. Per capita spending on education for whites is six times higher than that for blacks. 11/

18. According to the data available, some $US 1,500 per year is spent on the education of each white child, which is seven times higher than the allocation for each black or Coloured child. School enrolment statistics for black and white pupils who have completed secondary school demonstrate even more clearly the disparity between black and white schoolchildren, since many black pupils, both boys and girls, either leave school to enter the work-force in order to support their families or are expelled from school. 12/

19. The general working conditions of all women workers in South Africa, most of whom are black, are reflected in the report of the Wiehahn Commission, which commented that the level of protection for pregnant women was lower than in other industrialized countries. It recommended that: 13/

> "Pre-natal leave be increased to six weeks, maternity leave pay be increased to 60 per cent of earnings, that women should not be sacked merely because they were pregnant, that re-employment should be guaranteed within a specified period and pregnant women be given light work for safety and health reasons."

These recommendations were rejected by the régime. Instead, women whose children were stillborn or died soon after birth were merely granted extra time and maternity allowances were removed from the Unemployment Insurance Fund. 14/

20. Approximately 1 million blacks in South Africa work in agriculture and 700,000 in domestic services. 15/ Black women are employed in domestic service, agriculture, commerce and the manufacturing industry. The majority continue to work in domestic service, where they still have no legal rights, no minimum wage provision or minimum conditions of employment, no medical facilities, work compensation or employment insurance. They remain the least secure of employees as they are not covered by the Labour Relations Act. Women occupy the lowest grades and are frequently paid less than male employees who do the same work, in spite of the provisions in the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, 1984. 16/

21. As women are paid lower wages than men, farmers often prefer to hire women. Farm workers, like those in domestic service, are not protected by labour legislation; they lack social security benefits and bargaining power. The level of wages and the length of the working day are uncontrolled. 17/ These conditions continue despite the results of the survey on employment conditions in agriculture and domestic service completed by the National Manpower Commission (NMC) in 1984. The failure to publish and act on the survey provoked criticism from the National Committee Against Removals (NCAR), which pointed out that hundreds of thousands of agricultural and domestic workers (a large percentage of women with families) were still excluded from labour legislation and employed under difficult conditions, particularly in farming where employers are "often a law unto themselves". 18/

22. Apartheid laws and practices inhibit black women from entering industry. The working conditions of those who work in industry are frequently poor, because women are concentrated in those sectors considered to be "women's work". Both the Industrial Conciliation Act of 1956 and the Wage Act of 1957 endorsed discrimination along sex lines. The Industrial Relations Act of 1982 has done little to change the situation of black women. 19/ Women in industry still do not have maternity benefits. By law, a woman is allowed 12 weeks' maternity leave, but the law does not require the employer to keep the job open for the woman after the birth of a child. With increasing unemployment, women are rarely re-employed after maternity leave; if they are, their maternity leave is often regarded as broken service and they suffer a drop in salary. 20/

23. In Namibia, labour conditions are similar to those in South Africa. Apartheid affects the conditions of work, wages earned, benefits, right to organize in trade unions and types of job available. The majority of black people, in particular women, also work in unskilled and semi-skilled sectors, such as agriculture and domestic services. Approximately half the labour force is employed in small-scale agriculture. As a rule, black women are not allowed to work as contract labourers and are strictly controlled from migrating out of the Bantusans. They are, therefore, left behind when their husbands go away on contract, and have to survive on subsistence agriculture. 21/

24. Health conditions continue to deteriorate owing to the temporary displacement of large numbers of inhabitants and destruction of the health infrastructure as a result of destabilization. Over-crowded areas, particularly in the Bantustans and homelands, are marked by hunger, malnutrition and lack of health care. Over 40 per cent of the population are malnourished; about 55 per cent of the deaths are those of children under the age of five. Less than 20 per cent of the children have something to eat before going to school (A/41/22, chap. III, para. 100).

25. Medical facilities, when available, are not free. Charges for hospital attention and clinics often mean that women postpone attending for as long as possible. Long distances have to be travelled to seek medical assistance. Maternity care is often totally absent, and delivery and antenatal care are costly and beyond the reach of many women. 22/

26. As with education, health conditions in Namibia also reflect the apartheid system imposed by South Africa. Health services for the black majority are either rudimentary or non-existent while health facilities and services of a high standard are available to whites.

27. Disparities in health services are reflected in the mortality rates for different population groups. While there are no national statistics for mortality in Namibia, figures are available for Windhoek, the largest city, where the disparities in infant mortality rates are stark: 21.6 per thousand live births among the whites, 145 per thousand live births among the Coloureds and 165 per thousand live births among the Africans. 23/

II. MEASURES OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO SOUTH AFRICAN AND NAMIBIAN WOMEN AND WOMEN FROM SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA WHO HAVE BECOME REFUGEES AS A RESULT OF THE PRACTICE OF APARTHEID

A. Measures of assistance provided to South African and Namibian women

Legal and humanitarian assistance

28. The Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 24/ emphasized that full international assistance should be accorded to the most oppressed group living under apartheid, namely, women and children, and called for the United Nations system, Governments and non-governmental organizations to identify the basic needs of this group, including those of women in the refugee camps in southern Africa, and to provide them with adequate legal, humanitarian, medical and material assistance, as well as education, training and employment.

29. In its resolution 1986/22 entitled "Women and children under apartheid", the Economic and Social Council urged Member States and United Nations organizations to give effect, in consultation with the liberation movements, to the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, and to give particular attention to education, health, vocational training and employment opportunities and the strengthening of the women's sections of the liberation movements.

30. In its resolution 1986/23 on Namibia, the Economic and Social Council called upon all women of the world to support and assist all the bodies struggling to put an end to colonialism in Namibia.

31. The General Assembly, at its forty-first session, adopted resolution 41/35 G, in which the Assembly endorsed the report (A/41/638) of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa and commended the Secretary-General and the Committee of Trustees of the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa for their persistent efforts to promote humanitarian and legal assistance to persons persecuted under repressive and discriminatory legislation in South Africa and Namibia, as well as assistance to their families and to refugees from South Africa. The Assembly also appealed for direct contributions to the voluntary agencies engaged in rendering assistance to the victims of apartheid and racial discrimination in South Africa and Namibia.

32. The United Nations Fund for Namibia, which was established in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2679 (XXV), continues to provide legal and humanitarian assistance to Namibians, and women and children have benefited from such assistance and from relief programmes.

33. The activities of the Special Committee against Apartheid are wide ranging. The Committee has repeatedly appealed for more assistance to the oppressed people of South Africa and Namibia and has emphasized the need for all possible political, moral, humanitarian, educational, material and other assistance. It maintains contact and co-operates with other United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations concerned with providing assistance to victims of apartheid (A/41/22, chap. II, para. 70).

34. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees continues to provide regular humanitarian support and funds for the purchase of agriculture inputs that are not available locally for the farm of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) at Chongetta, Zambia, and for meeting the costs of transportation of humanitarian supplies. 25/

Employment and vocational training

35. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) and other organizations continue to undertake special efforts to enhance employment opportunities for South African and Namibian women. The work of ILO on its technical co-operation programme in the southern African region was presented in detail to the Committee on Discrimination of the Governing Body of ILO in November 1986. ILO reported that, at the end of 1985, 13 externally financed projects in the fields of vocational training and rehabilitation, labour administration, employment planning, rural development, small enterprise development, education, and migrant workers were in various stages of implementation. The total additional resources committed to ILO programmes in 1985, aimed at assisting both women and men in southern Africa, amounted to $US 2.36 million. 26/ In 1986, the total additional resources were approximately $US 500,000. 27/.

36. Since the adoption in 1981 of its updated Declaration of 1964 concerning the Policy of Apartheid of the Republic of South Africa, ILO has provided a few fellowships and small-scale assistance to women's organizations through the national liberation movements, in addition to encouraging the integration of women into large-scale projects being planned or implemented in co-operation with those movements. Large-scale programmes exclusively for women had not been implemented owing to lack of funds. The tripartite evaluation mission on technical co-operation projects under the anti-apartheid programme of ILO has recommended that ILO establish assistance to women victims of apartheid as one of four priority areas for future work. In collaboration with women's organizations of the national liberation movements, therefore, a workshop ocusing on the situation of women victims of apartheid in South Africa and amibia and on priorities for future action was organized in July 1987. 28/

Education and training

37. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has undertaken specific co-operation activities with women of national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity (OAU). In 1985/86, UNESCO supported seven Namibian women graduates of the United Nations Institute for Namibia at Lusaka, Zambia on an eight-months' training course in social science research methods and development studies, with a special focus on women in development.

38. In September 1987, UNESCO co-operated with the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Dar es Salaam in organizing a two-week training course in the use of the social sciences in analysing problems regarding the participation of women in economic, social and cultural life in urban areas of South Africa and Namibia. Nine cadres of national liberation movements recognized by OAU (ANC, the Pan Africanist Congress of Azaria (PAC) and SWAPO) participated in the course. 29/

39. During the 1985/86 academic year, the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa continued to give particular attention to women candidates: of the 1,102 students sponsored by the Programme, 321 were South African women and 103 Namibian women. The largest number of South African women were enrolled in the field of business (88), followed by natural sciences (45), liberal arts (33) and education (32). The largest number of Namibian women were enrolled in secondary-school studies (53), followed by education (11) and nursing (10) at university level. 30/

40. In 1985, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provided a total of $US 2.4 million for projects in support of ANC, PAC and SWAPO developmental programmes. A total amount of $US 2.7 million was programmed for expenditure in 1986, chiefly for education and training activities. 31/

41. The Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia reported that the Nationhood programme provides, inter alia, training and research assistance. More than 80 assistance projects provide fellowships in formal and informal education and training. Out of more than 900 trainees in the programme, 357 are women. Since its inception in 1976, the United Nations Institute for Namibia has continued to provide education and training to Namibian women: since 1977, the total enrolment at the Institute, at the time of the preparation of this report, was 1,800 students, of whom over 1,000 were women. Similarly, the majority of the 786 graduates of the Institute have been women. Under the United Nations Trust Fund for Namibia, individual scholarships are provided to Namibians on a regular basis. Approximately 76 of the 300 students receiving assistance from the Fund are women. 32/

42. Since 1985, 30 projects totalling more than $US 2.7 million have been approved by the United Nations Council for Namibia; fellowships and group-training opportunities in various economic and social fields have been made available to about 2,000 Namibians of both sexes. 33/ At the vocational training centre at Cuarea, Angola, the first group of 100 students should have completed their training in 1987.

Health and nutrition

43. During the period from 1984 to 1985, the World Health Organization (WHO) spent $US 22,500 on meeting health needs and training health personnel of ANC, PAC and SWAPO. It also supported the ANC multinational centre at Morogoro, United Republic of Tanzania, through external funds amounting to $US 533,028. This support covered such fields as family health, training and fellowships, immunization and basic sanitary measures. 34/

44. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has continued to render substantial assistance to national liberation movements in southern Africa (ANC, PAC and SWAPO) in the form of technical assistance in the fields of nutrition and the management of feeding programmes, such as improving the nutritional status of the population in the SWAPO settlement in Zambia and training personnel in the management of food supplies. This assistance has involved the use of regular programme funds from various divisions.

45. During the period under review, FAO co-operated with ANC in training teachers and staff responsible for the feeding of children and in the areas of nutrition, child care and the management of group-feeding programmes. In an initial phase, assistance was provided under a technical co-operation project whereby 30 people were trained at Mazimbu, Morogoro. Subsequently, two training workshops were held, one at Mazimbu from December 1985 to January 1986 and another at Lusaka from March to April 1986. 35/

Material and moral assistance

46. On 30 October 1985, the Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid presented to the Secretary-General contributions totalling $US 116,450 for Nonzamo Winnie Mandela, whose house had been set on fire and destroyed by unidentified persons (A/41/22, chap. II, para. 71).

47. In the technical co-operation programme of FAO for 1986, a sum of $US 20,000 was approved for the provision of tractor services, fertilizers, seeds and vegetative material, herbicides and general operating expenses for the development of ANC farms in Zambia. 36/

48. The Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) reported to the Industrial Development Board, at its second session in 1986, that the main thrust of UNIDO assistance to the Namibian people had been directed towards human resource development and the promotion of food production activities, such as technical assistance to Namibians in poultry production and processing. 37/

49. The Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF), in close co-operation with its affiliated organizations, continues to give material and moral assistance to the women of South Africa, Namibia and the front-line States. This assistance consists, inter alia, of an information bulletin to draw attention to the situation of child victims living under apartheid and to appeal to the international community to provide assistance to them. WIDF has also given financial aid to meet the travel expenses of ANC and SWAPO women for a tour of 20 cities in the United States of America. 38/

50. The International Defence and Aid Fund for Southern Africa is a humanitarian organization that has worked consistently for peaceful and constructive solutions to the problems of apartheid. Its objectives are to aid, defend and rehabilitate the oppressed people, especially women and children, and to support the families and dependants of the victims of apartheid. 39/

51. The World Federation of Trade Unions at its XIth World Trade Union Congress, which was held at Berlin (East) from 16 to 22 September 1986, reaffirmed its international solidarity with South African and Namibian women. The Federation has supported these women through its programmes of educational, organizational and material assistance to the South African and Namibian trade unions. 40/

Dissemination of information

52 During the period under review, the United Nations system and relevant non-governmental organizations have intensified their efforts to disseminate information on the situation of women and children living under apartheid in order to increase public awareness of the magnitude of the problem and to promote solidarity with the women of South Africa and Namibia.

53. In addition to disseminating information on the plight of women living under apartheid, the Special Committee against Apartheid and the United Nations Council for Namibia have continued to undertake consultation missions to various countries and to organize conferences, seminars and workshops on women living under apartheid. It held solemn meetings in observance of the Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners (11 October), the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March), the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa (16 June), and the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women of South Africa and Namibia (9 August) (A/41/22, chap. II, para. 72).

54. As said earlier, the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on southern Africa (E/CN.4/1986/9), in a subsection entitled "Allegations concerning ill-treatment of women during detention", drew attention to the fact that Namibian women continue to suffer torture and other forms of ill-treatment and are often the victims of rape attempts and assaults of various kinds.

55. In co-operation with the Government of Cameroon, the Commission on Human Rights held an international seminar on international assistance and support to peoples and movements struggling against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination and apartheid from 28 April to 9 May 1986. 41/ The seminar considered the following topics: international law and the question of assistance to peoples and movements struggling against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination and apartheid; international assistance currently given to peoples and movements struggling against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination and apartheid; and further assistance needed by peoples and movements struggling against colonialism, racial discrimination and apartheid. The seminar concluded that the principle of self-determination was one of the fundamental principles of modern international law and that the realization of the right to self-determination by all peoples continued to be of the highest priority for the international community.

56. UNESCO held an international meeting of university researchers from 1 to 4 September 1986 at Beijing to elaborate a five-year research plan on apartheid. One of the themes recommended for future study was the situation of women living under apartheid and the effects of migrant labour on women and family life. A working group of social scientists has been contracted to prepare a study, which should have been completed by the end of 1987. 42/

57. WIDF continues to intensify the dissemination of information on the situation of women and children in southern Africa. From February to April 1986, WIDF and its national organizations organized solidarity trips to 13 western European countries to consult with Governments on the need for assistance to women in South Africa and Namibia. WIDF, jointly with its British national organization, the National Assembly of Women, held an international conference in solidarity with the women of South Africa, Namibia and the front-line and neighbouring States in London from 31 January to 1 February 1987. The purpose was to draw the attention of the international community to the urgent need to intensify solidarity with women living under apartheid. 43/

58. A special resolution of solidarity with the workers and people of southern Africa was adopted by the World Federation of Trade Unions at its XIth Congress in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 1986/25 and important resolutions of the General Assembly concerning women living under apartheid. 44/

B. Measures of assistance provided to women from South Africa and Namibia who have become refugees as a result of the practice of apartheid

Legal and humanitarian assistance

59. Refugees usually arrive in the country of asylum in a pitiful physical and spiritual condition and require urgent protection, both legal and material, even before the question of their qualification for refugee status is considered. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and host countries take care of such initial assistance and try to ensure that all asylum seekers in host countries receive asylum.

60. The United Nations Trust Fund for Namibia provides emergency relief assistance to Namibians in refugee settlements, such as clothing for women and children. Up to June 1987, an estimated 10,000 travel documents had been issued by the Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia to provide Namibians with legal status in international travel. 45/

Employment and vocational training

61. In many refugee situations, such as that of refugee women from South Africa and Namibia, income-generating activities and those with a high degree of self-sufficiency represent alternatives that are indispensable, given the lack of employment opportunities and the limited access of refugees to the labour market.

62. Host countries have tried to assist Namibian and South African refugee women by providing them with jobs according to their qualifications. In 1985, $US 228,000 of UNHCR assistance went to ANC settlements, including the vocational training centres at Dakawa, United Republic of Tanzania, and at Viana, Angola. 46/

63. UNHCR, in co-operation with OAU and liberation movements recognized by the United Nations, continues to assist refugees from South Africa and Namibia who have been given asylum in the front-line States or who have been students in other countries. Under the United Nations mandate, OAU, UNHCR and the country of asylum have responsibility for protecting refugees in Africa, in particular those who have become refugees as a result of the practice of apartheid. Assistance is provided by external sources, including a number of international agencies which, in the period under review, offered a variety of services and assistance. Women benefited in varying degrees, although the extent and impact cannot be properly assessed in the absence of specific data. 47/

64. Since early 1986, UNHCR has also assisted in the resettlement of 700 refugees from Maseru, Lesotho, to Zambia. 48/

65. The World Bank reported that although it had not directly financed refugee projects, a number of projects assisted by it included components that benefited refugees. 49/

Education and training

66. UNHCR assistance to southern African refugees includes programmes for education, training and local integration of refugee groups and individuals, mainly in Angola, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. Educational assistance to southern African refugees of both sexes involves the construction of schools and provision of operational costs, including staff salaries, books and equipment.

67. During the last decade, a total of 660 Namibian students were placed and sponsored by UNHCR, under the West African School Placement Programme for Southern African Refugees, to pursue Ordinary-level courses in educational institutions in West African countries at a total cost of $US 5,650,042. Of the 660 Namibian students, 470 were women. The number of Namibian female refugees sponsored by UNHCR for training continues to be higher than that of males. The 1985 intake data indicate that, of the 65 Namibian students who received UNHCR scholarships for training, 92 per cent were females. Scholarships were also awarded to southern African women refugees residing in urban centres in the front-line States. 50/

68. Under its regular programme in 1986, UNESCO granted three fellowships to refugee women in South Africa and Namibia: two of which were in the field of educational planning. Two of eight UNDP-financed projects executed by UNESCO concerned the university training of South African students; among the fellowships offered under the two projects, 13 were to women, most of whom finished their studies at the end of 1986. 51/

Health and nutrition

69. In a report (A39/28) submitted to the thirty-ninth World Health Assembly, which was held at Geneva from 5-16 May 1986, the Director-General of WHO described the action taken to help the front-line States solve the acute health problems of the Namibian and South African refugees. The action included strengthening the existing health infrastructure; providing logistic support; organizing training activities for health personnel; and collaborating with national health authorities to assess and control the epidemiological situation in the affected communities.

Material and moral assistance

70. During 1985/86, UNHCR provided $US 201,000 to ANC refugees, both women and men based at the Dakawa Centre, United Republic of Tanzania, for the purchase of grain seeds, livestock, domestic utensils, agricultural machinery and equipment for a vocational training centre. A contribution of $US 75,000 was made to PAC for buying a farm for growing crops at Bagamoyo, United Republic of Tanzania. 52/

Resettlement and rehabilitation

71. During the period under review, the United Nations Fund for Namibia has provided legal assistance, medical care, social welfare and emergency relief assistance to Namibian women in refugee settlements. Child upkeep and basic relief items, such as clothing, have particularly herefited Namibian women and children in the settlements. 53/

CONCLUSIONS

72. Black people, and in particular black women, in South Africa and Namibia continue to suffer from the direct inhuman practice of apartheid. They have not been able to change conditions affecting their daily lives, such as free movement, access to education and employment and access to other basic services. Their situation, therefore, deserves increasing attention and full international assistance from Governments and non-governmental organizations. Although a considerable effort has been made to provide assistance, it has not been sufficient to meet the growing needs. As a result of the intensified repressive action in South Africa and Namibia, attention and assistance are not only essential for meeting the pressing needs of the people, but also for fully developing their potential to take an active part in the construction of their new society.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 22 (A/41/22), chap. III, para. 80.

2/ Ibid., para. 82.

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